

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) A method of selecting stored video programs (S_i) in which, together with the video programs (S_i) their running time (t_{Di}) and, if necessary, an information item (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, are stored, wherein, on the basis of a specified time duration (ΔT), those video programs (S_n) are automatically selected from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{Dn}) multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to the specified time duration (ΔT).
2. (original) A method of selecting stored video programs (S_i) in which, with video programs (S_i), their running time (t_{Di}) and, if necessary, an information item (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, are stored, wherein, on the basis of a specified time duration (ΔT) up to a subsequent video program (S_F) having specified transmission start (t_{F0}) and an anticipated transmission end (t_{FE}), those video programs (S_n) are automatically selected from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{Dn}), multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to N times the specified time duration (ΔT), where N is between 1 and 2 and wherein the subsequent video program (S_F) is played back

with a time offset and in a compressed form so that the anticipated transmission end (t_{FE}) of the subsequent video program is adhered to.

3. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1-or-2~~, wherein combinations of a plurality of video programs (S_n) are automatically selected, wherein the sum of the running time (t_{Dn}), multiplied by any applicable compression factor (C_n) of each video program (S_n) in the combination is shorter than or equal to N times the specified time duration (ΔT) where N is between 1 and 2.

4. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1-or-2~~, wherein, on the basis of an information item (I_B) specified by a user, those video programs (S_G) are selected from the selected video programs (S_n) whose content information (I_G) corresponds to the user's requirement (I_B).

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein, on the basis of an information item (I_F) of the subsequent video program (S_F), those video programs (S_G) are selected whose content information (I_G) corresponds to the information (I_F) of the subsequent video program (S_F).

6. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the stored video programs (S_i) contain at least one compression factor (C_i).

7. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the compression factor (C_i) of a video program (S_i) is applied during the storage of the video program (S_i).

8. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the compression factor (C_i) of a video program (S_i) takes place in a separate run after the storage of the video program (S_i).

9. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim 1-~~or~~-2, wherein the user enters an identification code.

10. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the video programs (S_i) are selected as a function of parameters assigned to the identification code.

11. (original) A method as claimed in Claim 10, wherein the parameters assigned to the identification code contain a selection of permissible content information items (I_i).

12. (original) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein a user's inputs are stored together with the identification code.

13. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1-~~or~~-2~~, wherein the video programs (S_i) are selected as a function of the absolute time.

14. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1-~~or~~-2~~, wherein the applicable compression, if any, of the video programs (S_i) takes place as a function of the running time of the video program (S_i).

15. (currently amended) A method as claimed in claim ~~1-~~or~~-2~~, wherein the video program (S_i) is compressed as a function of the information (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, of the video program (S_i).

16. (original) A playback device (1) for video programs (S_i) having at least one memory device (5) for the video programs (S_i) and their running times (t_{Di}), furthermore having a control unit (12) for the selection of those video programs (S_n) from the stored video programs (S_i) whose running time (t_{Dn}), multiplied by any

applicable compression factor (C_n) is shorter than or equal to N times a specified time duration (ΔT), where the factor N is between 1 and 2.

17. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein an input unit (11) is provided for the input of the time duration (ΔT).

18. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a memory device (7) for information (I_i) about the content, for example the genre, of the video programs (S_i) is provided that is connected to a control unit (12) for the selection of those video programs (S_n) from the selected video programs (S_n) whose content information (I_G) corresponds to a user's requirement (I_B).

19. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, having a memory device (8) for at least one compression factor (C_n) assigned to the video programs (S_i).

20. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein an input unit (11) is provided for the entry of a user identification code.

21. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a database (13) is provided for the storage of an entered time duration (ΔT) associated with an identification code and, if necessary, input (I_B) of an information item (I_i) about the content of the video programs (S_i).

22. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a summing unit (16) is provided, which summing unit (16) is connected to the control unit (12).

23. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one compression device (14) is provided for the compression of the playback of a video program (S_i).

24. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein a device (15) is provided for selection of the method of compression of the video programs (S_i).

25. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16, wherein at least one memory device (17) is provided for the temporary storage of video signals during playback.

26. (original) A playback device (1) as claimed in claim 16,
wherein a timer (18) is provided that is connected to the control
unit (12).